HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol.13 No. 01 - January, 2005

President's Letter

I have decided to raise the dues to $40 per member.

There's a good reason for that and if you'll bear with the explanation and keep reading, you will no doubt agree with me. From a cash standpoint, we are going to keep on receiving the same $17 per year that all of you have been paying for the last few years – that and the usual $3.00 donation toward the repeater fund. The other $20 of the dues is going to be for two hours of your time per month. I know this is below minimum wage, but I strongly believe that each and every one of our members should donate / pay / give at least two hours of their time to the club per month. By the way, this is not attending the monthly meeting (unless you are presenting the program; this is performing some good deed, working on publication of the Chatter, teaching Amateur Radio, VE Testing, working on the repeater, manning the club booth at hamfest (or upcoming Superfest). This is productive participation in an Amateur Radio club activity – maybe even "creating" that activity.

If you've read this far, thank you! You understand that it is all tongue-in-cheek, but it does bring up a point which Tom, AB9EK, made some months ago. We have a membership that is made up of people who have contributed a lot in the past and that for some reason have now decided to just go along for the ride. While your past contributions are certainly recognized and appreciated, the time has come for you to step back into active participation. Let me give you some examples…

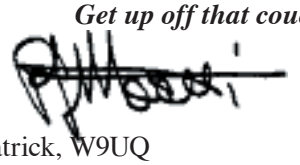
1. **Field Day** – We (the board and officers) have been asking for a volunteer to take on the job of being Field Day Chairman. For the last few years Gerry, WA9CGE, has been our Field Day leader. He has organized and coordinated the location, equipment, antennas, and food (he even made a bunch of the antennas in his spare time). After the event he collected all of the logs and translated those he could into a report to the ARRL for our entry in the contest. Those Field Days have been fun for all thanks to his efforts. Now someone else has to step in and take over the leadership for that event or we won't have one this year. I live out in the boonies and every time I operate, it's like a Field Day. I don't need to drive to Pioneer Village, but I enjoy the companionship, the team work, and the contest atmosphere. So – the job is open: Please let me or any board member know that you are interested in helping the club in this way.

2. **Programs** – Every member who comes to our meetings on the last Thursday of the month expects to have an interesting, challenging and entertaining program. Who is going to provide the next eleven? The beauty of having a lot of experience is being able to share it with others. If you have contributed to our programs in the past, but are now less active in our club, please consider sharing your expertice and experiences with us.

3. **Chatter articles** – The 'Chatter doesn't "just happen". Quite a few people put in a lot of effort into the preparation, publication, and distribution of this newsletter. Our survey last year indicated that most of you really appreciated it and were strongly in favor of our newsletter. Thanks. Now it's time to put pen to paper and come up with technical articles, historical anecdotes, stories, pictures… What can you contribute?

You've all heard the term "**couch potato**"… I think we need to ask ourselves the question, "Am I a couch potato in Amateur Radio *(and our Club)*?" If the answer is yes…

Get up off that couch!



Patrick, W9UQ

MRAC Officers

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Patrick Moretti` W9UQ

Vice Pres.
Howard Parks AB9FH

Secretary
Brian White K9LCQ

Treasurer
Tom Schulte AB9EK

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis ('03-'05)	KA9OFA
Hal Newton ('04-'06)	KB9OZN
Joe Sturmberg ('04-'06)	KA9DFZ
Jerry Wahlen ('03-'05)	WA9CGE
Dick Wood ('03-'05)	W9JBE

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(414) 332-MRAC or
(414) 332-6 7 2 2

Visit our website at:
http://www.qsl.net/mrac/

Address correspondence to:
M. R. A. C.
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695
or w9rh@arrl.net

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	5:00 - 7:15 AM	3.985	Badger Weather Net
Daily	6:00 PM	1.895	MidEast 160 m. Net
Daily	6-8:00 AM	14.290	Milwaukee/Florida (SSB)
Daily	7:30 AM	144.155	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net
Mon.-Sat.	12:00 PM	28.380	10/10 International Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.670-	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m.SSB NET
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670-	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
Tue.	8:30 PM	223.500	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m. SSB Net.
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milw. Ch.) (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.
Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Fri.	9:00 PM	145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10mtr.
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Bar. SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Int. (MKE Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when we have our Christmas Dinner.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9FH	K9LCQ	W9UQ
W9JBE	KB9Q	KF9XL

Our thanks goes out to:

Rita, Michelle and Julie Doneis and Tom Fuszard for proofreading the 'Chatter.

Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter.

Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's.

Special appreciation also for helping to catch some long standing errors in the 'Chatter.

Thank YOU!

Class Announced

MRAC will be offering a Technician Class at AES starting February 19th. The class will be held from 12:30pm until 2:30pm on 6 consecutive Saturdays, ending March 26th.

Testing will be available the following Saturday at Superfest.

The cost will be $17 and includes a free year of membership in the club for those who complete the class.

We will have copies of ARRL's **"Now You're Talking"** to loan to students who don't have their own, thanks to the generosity of Patrick, W9UQ.

Please contact Howard, AB9FH if you are interested in helping out with the class at:

ab9fh@arrl.net or
414-328-0667.

General Membership Meeting 11/18/04

There were 34 people were present including officers, members, guests.

The meeting was called to order by club vice-president Howard, AB9FH, at 7:10 p.m. with a brief introduction.

The membership then introduced themselves by name and call sign.

Howard, AB9FH, read the minutes from the last membership meeting. After the reading of the minutes Howard asked for a motion to accept the minutes as read. A motion was made by Hal and seconded by Pancho. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

Due to Tom, AB9EK, being absent and the lack of an up to date treasurers report, no treasurer's report was read.

Howard then proceeded to 'Buzz talk' where several members discussed ham-related activities from the past month.

Howard passed around a sign up sheet seeking the names of those that would like to take a tour of the National Weather Service Forecast Office near Sullivan, WI. We would need at least 10 to arrange a tour. 14 signed-up. Brian, K9LCQ, will now contact the NSW to make the arrangements.

Howard then moved on to discuss the MRAC FM simplex contest to be held in February, The rules and forms have been printed. Thanks to Mark, AB9CD, for his help in the printing.

Howard then discussed Field Day mentioning that we are in search of a Field Day chairman. No one stepped forward. If anyone is interested in heading the Field Day, please contact the MRAC board.

Several comments were received from the membership concerning Field Day.

Discussion continued concerning the inventory of club equipment. A plea went out asking any member who has club equipment to make a list and turn that list into the Board of Field Day chairman.

Mark, AB9CD, gave a brief status update on the repeater. The system is working well and Dave, WB9BWP is working on new tag lines for the system.

Vern, W9RYA, asked for a show of hands for those members planning on attending the Christmas on Dec. 5, so that he can make the reservation. We will be ordering off the menu as this has proved to be more economical then the buffet used in the pass.

Howard mentioned that the club should seek a new web service provider.

Howard estimates the annual cost to be $100. Howard continued to explain the reasoning for a new provider. Our current Web hosting service although very generous (free), is often unavailable, prompting complaints from users. As a club we do donate funds to the provider. The E-mail account we currently use expiries in March. The member who donates an E-mail address off his dial-up account has changed to a DSL provider. Therefore, he is allowing his dial-up account to expire. This necessitates the club finding another provider. One of the major advantages of this account is the ability to automatically forward any E-mail received at w9rh@arrl.net to the club officers.

Howard has suggested that the $100 fee was reasonable and that the board has decided to spend the money.

Howard asked for a motion to spend the money. No motion was made as objections were raised to why the board decided to change providers and spend the money without consulting the membership. There was a very lengthy discussion concerning the Web Site and the spending of the $100.

Mark, AB9CD, indicated that if we do change he may have a source for anther free site.

Howard will write an article for the January 'Chatter and and the club will decide during the January meeting whether to seek an internet provider or stay with the current provider.

Howard asked Joe, KA9DFZ, to introduce the promotional flyer. Joe passed around the amateur radio promotional flyer he designed. The cost to reproduce the flyer in black and white would be about 7 cents per page while a color version about 80 cents per page. Discussion ensued on how to bring the color reproduction cost down. There was no resolution.

Joe also described his effort to get different school districts to accept the flyers. Joe contacted 6 school districts Milwaukee, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, West Allis-West Milwaukee joint, Menomonee Falls and Brookfield. Waukesha denied access; Joe will pursue the matter further. Milwaukee is proving to be difficult. Wauwatosa has requested a flyer for review, Menomonee Falls has asked for 6 flyers and likes the idea.

There was considerable discussion on the promotion effort. However, several concerns were raised as well as questions were asked on how to handle the potential influx of new hams. One of the suggestions was to have an operating station at the meetings. Another was to have demonstrations. All were good ideas.

The board was left with a mandate from the membership that the Board needs to develop a plan before continuing with the promotion idea. Joe will

Min. cont. on pg. 4

Min. cont. from pg. 3

lead this effort as appointed by Howard.

Howard asked Dave, WB9BWP, to auction off a number of items.

Del, KA9ZMK, donated three - kits and Bill, W9WCF, donated two - antenna books to be auctioned.

Dave successfully auctioned off all items with proceeds going to the club treasury. Thanks to Del, Bill and Dave.

Suggestion:

Ted, WA9RDI, wants the board to consider allowing the members to bring equipment to club meetings to sell to other members. The board will consider this at the next board meeting.

Mark, AB9CD, mentioned that there have been a lot of misleading comments being heard about the repeater lately. Most notably those comments that state the repeater is not busy. Please do not make such comments when they are not based on fact. Oftentimes these comments can be heard within minutes of a lengthy QSO ending.

From Mark's observation, our repeater generates as much traffic as other repeaters. Mark also mentioned that we have several regularly scheduled QSOs.

There was no further new business.

Due to the extreme length of the business meeting the round table discussion was cancelled for the evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K9LCQ

Brian White, K9LCQ, acting secretary

Wanted – Field Day Chairman

We (the MRAC) need a volunteer to step forward to become Field Day chairman. Field Day is quite a while off, so at present there is plenty of time to make plans.

If interested, please contact a Board member or Club officer.

FM Simplex Contest

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club's third annual FM Simplex Contest is scheduled for the Second Sunday of February 2005. More details will follow as the committee firms up the details. In order to help folks prepare, my monthly Wednesday FM simplex experimental and testing sessions have resumed.

73,

Sherm, KB9Q

MRAC VEC A Exam Schedule

Sat., Jan. 29, 2005 – 9:30 AM @ AES
Sat., Feb. 26, 2005 – 9:30 AM @ AES
Sat., Apr. 2, 2005 – 9 AM @ AES
(AES Superfest)
Sat., Apr. 30, 2005 – 9:30 AM @ AES
Sat., May 7, 2005 – 9 AM – Circle B Rec. Ctr. 6261 Hwy 60 (ORC Swapfest)
Sat., May 28, 2005 – 9:30 AM @ AES
Sat., Jul. 30, 2005 – 9:30 AM @ AES

AES is Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

73,

John (KF9KL)

KF9XL

Reminders!

Please, check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our Ten meter SSB net is at **8:30 p.m.** at **28.490 MHz. USB**

Our Two meter FM net follows at 9:00 PM on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at around 8:00 AM, and order around 8:15 AM.

Dues 'R Due, Now!!!
Lets Dues It.
Renewal form is on pg. 7.

'Chatter Deadline

The **deadline** for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the 7th day of each month. If you have anything for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me by email at:

pancho@thepark.net

or by snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

or by phone at:

(414) 344-4694

Proposed NWS Tour

At the November membership meeting, a preliminary (by show of hands), poll was taken to determine if the membership wanted a tour of the **National Weather Service** (NWS) forecast office near Sullivan WI. About 20 in individuals indicated that they would like such a tour.

I have contacted the NWS to start arranging the tour. First, the options we were given were a Thursday evening in place of the regular membership meeting or a Saturday. Given the limited numbers of Thursdays and the limited number of individuals that the NWS can accommodate (20) at any one time, the board decided that the Saturday tour was the best option.

We have given the NWS the following dates:

March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

April 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.

May 7th, 14th and 21st.

We have asked for a primary and a rain date.

At the time this article was submitted to the 'Chatter, a firm date for the tour has not been arranged. Hopefully, the final arrangements can be made soon after the January membership meeting. We will use some of the meeting to solicit feedback from the membership concerning the tour. We need a firm commitment from anyone wishing to attend the tour.

The tour consists of two parts: a video generally shown in their conference room and a tour of the facility, of course.

If more then 10 people show up (we want 20), the group will be divided into two parts with one group on tour while the other watches the video.

More information is planned for the January meeting.

Brian K9LCQ

Brian White, K9LCQ

Possible New Website?

At the October meeting last year, I mentioned that the Board was looking into finding a new place to host our club Web Site. The new service would cost approximately $100 a year. We currently use QSL.NET as our Web service provider; that is, they are the company that provides the actual computer that stores the pages for our Web Site, and sends them out whenever someone connects their browser to www.qsl.net/mrac. They provide this service for free, although the club makes a voluntary donation each year. Our Web Site is not a big deal for the club. We don't know how many people look at it or use it to look at the Chatter, or download a renewal application. So why would the Board consider spending money for something we get for (almost) free today? I should mention that a majority of the Board, but not all, supported this idea.

Today, when someone sends an email to w9rh@arrl.net, the ARRL forwards it to an email account held by Brian White, K9LCQ. He has that account set up to automatically forward those emails to the Board members. However, soon that email account will be going away. I could set up one of my email accounts to do the same, but that would be just prolonging the problem of having the club dependant on a member. I have looked into getting an account for the club to provide this service, but apparently nobody thinks they can make any money on it so nobody offers it. What many companies do offer is web hosting, and that was the genesis of this idea.

Purchasing our web hosting from one of the many commercial sites has some advantages. Our Web Site could be www.mrac.us, (not as ungainly), a little classier and easier to remember than www.qsl.net/mrac. We could collect statistics on how many people visit the site, what they look at when they are there, where they come from. We could provide more than just static web pages; we could provide surveys, practice exams, membership renewal, and classifieds. I have been maintaining the Web Site with my minimal understanding of Web formatting. To take advantage of these new features, we would need someone with new skills. As it turns out, I will be taking classes through work over the next year on how to use scripting, cascading style sheets, php, asp and all those other fancy three letter acronyms. Also, a commercial site will provide faster, more reliable response time. Our current host can't support any of these features and makes no guarantees about the site being available. But of course, that's what you get for free.

The move to a new web host solves the email problem, and provides an opportunity to enhance the service we provide to members and the community at large. We do not have to sign up for a long contract (although you get the best rates if you commit for a year or more at a time). The current Board is interested in building up membership in the club, and an improved Web presence is one way to do get the word out about the club and what we do. If you have comments or questions about this, please feel free to contact me at ab9fh@arrl.net, or by phone at 414-328-0667.

Howard, AB9FH

EVENTS

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Jan. 27, 2005
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

FM Simplex Contest
February 13, 2005
5 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
for details see below.

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Feb. 24, 2005
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

MicWinter Madness
Hobby Electronics Show
Sat. - Mar. 19, 2005
Buffalo Civic Center
Buffalo, MN

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Mar. 31, 2005
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

SuperFest *
Sat. - Apr. 2, 2005
AES
Milwaukee, WI

North Shore Radio Club HamFest *
Sat.. - Apr 16, 2005
Lake Co. Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 147.345+ rptr
or 146.52 simp

2005 Madison HamFest *
and Computer Show
Sun. - Apr. 17, 2005
Mandt Community Ctr.
Stoughton, WI
T/I on 147.150 (123 Hz) rptr

SEWFARS Flea Market
Sun. - Apr. 24, 2005
Richfield Chalet
Hubertus, WI

* indicates
VE testing is available.

FM Simplex Contest

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club's third annual FM Simplex Contest is scheduled for February 13, 2005 from 1:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Central Time. More details along with log forms, etc. can be found on our website at: http://www.qsl.net/mrac/index.html or from me as a PDF or Word document. In order to help folks prepare, my monthly Wednesday FM simplex experimental and testing sessions have resumed.

January 19 will again present an opportunity for Milwaukee area amateurs to test enhancements to their FM simplex stations. At 8:00 p.m., CST. I will call CQ on 146.565 MHz at that time and will help anyone within "earshot" with testing their station.

ORGANIZE your club for the competition and get permanent recognition on the perpetual plaque at Amateur Electronics' Supply in Milwaukee. Last year the Badger Contesters fell one entry short of taking the Club Event!

73,

Sherm, KB9Q

MRAC VE Test Results

MRAC VEC held VE testing on Nov 27, 2004 at AES. There were 14 candidates and 9 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their initial license. A total of 17 Elements were given. Those VEs who helped out at the session include the following:

Tom Czaja KG9EE
Pancho Doneis..... KA9OFA
Les Hundt AB9EY
Bob Immekus W9CYI
John Kraak KF9XL
Hal Newton KB9OZN
Tom Schulte AB9EK
Sherm Swanson..... KB9Q
Mark Tellier..... AB9CD
Ron Yokes W9BCK

AND

On Jan. 8, 2005 MRAC VEC held testing at the AMF Bowling Lanes in conjunction with the West Allis Radio Amateurs Club Swapfest. There were 20 examinees, and 14 were successful in either qualifying for their initial license or in upgrading. Twenty-eight exam elements were administered, and 23 were passed. VEs who helped out at this session include the following:

Jim Albrinck..... K9QLP
Tom Czaja KG9EE
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
Ken Eggert W9MOT
Les Hundt..... AB9EY
Bernie Golownia..... AA9CI
Kate Kedney KA9MWT
John Kraak KF9XL
Sherm Swanson KB9Q
Mark Tellier AB9CD
Ron Yokes W9BCK

Our next exam session is scheduled for Saturday, January 29, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at AES.

73,

John (KF9XL)
John KF9XL

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Membership Renewal - 2005

Date _____

Name _____ **Callsign** _____

Spouse or Family member name _____ **Callsign** _____

1st Address _____

2nd Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone Contact Number _____ **Home Cell Office Other**

Do you wish to receive the club newsletter via email? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
E-mail address _____

Member License Class
☐ **None** ☐ **Novice** ☐ **Technician** ☐ **Technician Plus** ☐ **General** ☐ **Advanced** ☐ **Extra**

Spouse or Family Member License Class
☐ **None** ☐ **Novice** ☐ **Technician** ☐ **Technician Plus** ☐ **General** ☐ **Advanced** ☐ **Extra**

Membership Type Renewing (check only one)
☐ **Associate $17.00** ☐ **Family $17.00** ☐ **Regular $17.00**
☐ **Life w/Chatter $10.00 (minimum to cover the Chatter costs)**

Now that the repeater has been relocated, do you use the repeater? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Are you a member of the ARRL? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

Enclose a check for the appropriate amount and mail it to the address above.

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31

Received from _____ *Date* _____

The Sum of _____ *Dollars* *Cash/Check #* _____

For **Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club dues for 2005**

_____
Signed

The **next Meeting** of **M.R.A.C.**
will be **Thursday, January 27, 2005**
at **7:00 PM** at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

Program for the General Membership Meeting on January 27, 2005 will be a presentation on "Lightning Protection in the Shack" by Richard Wood - W9JBE

Our Repeater

145.390 MHz - offset with
PL of 127.3Hz

Use it or lose it.

Visit our website at **http://www.qsl.net/mrac/**

Our phone (414) 332-MRAC
332-6722

M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695